

Students Earn National Dairy Board Scholarships



Nine South Dakota State University Dairy Science students were recently announced as National Dairy Promotion and Research Board scholarship recipients. Scholarships were awarded to (from left), Jacob Johnson, Heron Lake, Minn.; Andreea Pfaffenbach, Roann, Indiana; Audrey Souza, Milbank, S.D.; Kaylee Wegner, Faribault, Minn.; Sarah Post, Chandler, Minn.; Kristin Mohr, New Ulm, Minn.; Morgan Goche, Burt, Iowa; Kirby Krogstad, Eyota, Minn.; and Megan Schaefer, Paynesville, Minn. Courtesy of South Dakota State University

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The National Dairy Promotion and Research Board recently announced that South Dakota State University Dairy Science students earned nine of the 21 academic scholarships awarded in the U.S. for the 2015-2016 school year by the dairy checkoff.

"These students are the future leaders of the dairy industry," said Vikram Mistry SDSU Dairy Science Department Head. "The Dairy Science Department at SDSU nominates students for the scholarship based on their academic performance, leadership, and work experience."

The National Dairy Promotion and Research Board, through Dairy Management,

Inc. which manages the national dairy checkoff, awards the \$1,500 scholarships to undergraduate students enrolled in dairy science programs nationwide. Scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic performance, dairy-related coursework, involvement in extra-curricular activities, leadership experience and a commitment to the dairy industry.

SDSU scholarship recipients are Morgan Goche of Burt, Iowa; Jacob Johnson of Heron Lake, Minn.; Kirby Krogstad of Eyota, Minn.; Andreea Pfaffenbach of Roann, Indiana; Sarah Post of Chandler, Minn.; Kristin Mohr of New Ulm, Minn.; Megan Schaefer of Paynes-

ville, Minn.; Audrey Souza of Milbank, S.D.; and Kaylee Wegner of Faribault, Minn.

Mistry noted that the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board speaks highly of SDSU students. "Our students have consistently been selected to receive these scholarship, with 94 being chosen as recipients since 2003," Mistry said.

Morgan Goche
Scholarship recipient Morgan Goche, a junior Dairy Manufacturing major, was able to learn about being a cheese technician and had the opportunity to complete her own projects focusing on cross contamination and quality, as the quality intern this summer for Valley Queen in Milbank, S.D. Goche's internship experience has aided in her classes on campus. "I have a better understanding of what is going on in class and how dairy products are made," Goche said. She is interested in a career in quality assurance or research and development.

Jacob Johnson
Jacob Johnson, a junior Dairy Production and Agricultural Education double major, spent his summer interning for Sominn Ag in New Ulm, Minn. He helped agronomists scout fields,

conducted soil sampling, and helped with equipment maintenance.

"My passion in the dairy industry is to keep families involved with the industry," Johnson said. "Right now a majority of dairies are family owned, which is important." If Johnson doesn't become an agriculture teacher, he hopes to go back to the family farm.

Kirby Krogstad
Kirby Krogstad, a sophomore Dairy Production major, was a summer intern for Genex. "I covered an area of seven farms with the lead technician," Krogstad said. "I did breeding protocols, daily breeding, synchronization protocols, and record keeping."

Krogstad's main concern in the industry is being efficient with land and water because both resources will always be limited. "It is important to maintain the most efficient animal possible because our resources are depleting all the time," Krogstad said. After college, he is planning to attend graduate school or to go home to the family dairy farm.

Andreea Pfaffenbach
Andreea Pfaffenbach, a senior Dairy Production major, is graduating in December 2015 and plans to work for Hudson Farms in Roann, Indiana, a company with which she interned this past summer. "I did some management with computer inputs, helped with renovating stalls, and did field work," Pfaffenbach said. She also gained experience in nutrition consulting by visiting farms to talk to producers with Gutwein Dairy Consulting in Roann, Indiana.

"Hands-on experience helps a lot with understanding in the classroom," she said. "But on the other hand, I learned that I can also take what I learned in the classroom and apply it in my job."

Sarah Post
Sarah Post, a senior Dairy Production major, gained experience in sales and cold calling, introduced products, and had the opportunity to

fly to numerous locations throughout the country as the animal health intern this summer for Strong Animals, a Ralco Brand in Balaton, Minn.

Post is concerned with making sure family farms stay around in her area. "With larger dairies moving in, large and small farms need to work together," Post said. "I want to consult for both to keep dairies family owned and operated." As a future career, Post would enjoy being a dairy consultant/strategist to help improve farms.

Kristin Mohr
Kristin Mohr, a sophomore Dairy Manufacturing major, spent her summer interning at Minnesota Valley Testing Labs in New Ulm, Minn. "I worked in the microbiology lab where products from different companies were received and tested for salmonella and E. coli," Mohr said.

On the SDSU campus, she is currently conducting undergraduate research within the Veterinary and Biomedical Science Department, where she works with various viruses. "I am interested in research and development in the dairy industry, so I would enjoy working on improving and testing products in the future," Mohr said.

Megan Schaefer
Megan Schaefer, a junior Dairy Production major, enjoyed working on her family dairy farm this past summer in preparation for her career goal of joining the family farm after graduation.

One of Schaefer's concerns is the public's perception of the dairy industry. "I want consumers' thoughts to be positive towards farmers," Schaefer said. "I want to help make sure consumers can see that what we do is for their benefit."

Audrey Souza
Audrey Souza, a junior Dairy Production major and Spanish minor, had the unique opportunity to gain experience relating to both her major and minor through her internship at Riverview Dairy in Milbank, S.D. "I gained experience in nutrition, bedding, and management on the production side of a dairy," Souza said. "My coworkers only spoke Spanish, so it gave me the opportunity to grow my

Spanish language skills as well."

Souza has a passion for informing consumers by spreading the word about the dairy industry. "There's a lot of concern about agriculture right now and I think it's important for consumers to feel like they can ask producers questions," Souza said. "I think it would be beneficial to invite consumers to visit dairy farms so they can gain first-hand experience." As a career, Souza would enjoy a job relating to both dairy communications and using her Spanish speaking skills.

Kaylee Wegner
Kaylee Wegner, a senior Dairy Production major, was a feed and grain intern for Centra Sota Cooperative in Albany, Minn., through Land O' Lakes Purina. "One project I worked on was dairy calf and heifer health and management, so I visited farms and conducted farm audits to look at management practices," Wegner said. "Another project I worked on was surveying customers to see if they wanted more support in marketing feed and milk."

The internship gave Wegner the opportunity to apply concepts she had learned in her classes. "It was really neat to put to use what I learned in classes and to see how my education will benefit me in my future career," Wegner said. She would enjoy helping dairy producers as a career and her long-term goal is to stay active in the dairy industry.

About the South Dakota State University Dairy Science Department

With expertise in both Dairy Production and Dairy Manufacturing, South Dakota State University Dairy Science department covers the entire spectrum of the dairy industry; from farm to product.

The department is housed in the newly renovated Alfred Dairy Science Hall, attached to which is the new state of the art Davis Dairy Plant. About a mile north of campus the South Dakota State University Dairy Farm provides the source of milk for well-known SDSU ice cream and cheese products, and is home to some 150 milking Holsteins and Brown Swiss cattle. ■iGrow

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